

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /078 W

----- 082474

R 071548Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2195

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A DECON 1/7/76

TAGS: PFOR EG SY UR

SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF BREZHNEV'S MIDDLE EAST VISIT

REF: BEIRUT 0061

1. DURING SOCIAL FUNCTION JAN 3 EMBOFF HAD OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS POSTPONEMENT OF BREZHNEV ME VISIT WITH LOCAL TASS CORRESPONDENT, VICTOR KOPYTIN. LATTER, AFTER INITIALLY PUTTING FORWARD "BAD HEALTH" EXPLANATION, ELABORATED MORE FUNDAMZNTAL SET OF REASONS WHICH HE SAID HAD CONVINCED MOSCOW THAT "TIME WAS NOT RIGHT" FOR VISIT.

2. IN FIRST PLACE, ACCORDING TO KOPYTIN, "GENERAL TENSE ME ATMOSPHERE" -- RINFORCED BY ALMOST DAILY INCIDENTS IN GOLAN AND ACROSS ISRAELI-LEBANESE BORDER--DID NOT LEND ITSELF TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUCCESSFUL VISIT.

3. SECONDLY, EGYPTIANS PROVED UNWILLING CCOMMODATE SOV DESIRE TO RECONVENE GENEVA CONFERENCE. KOPYTIN SAID SADAT'S SUPPORT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S "STEP-BY-STEP" APPROACH TO SOLVING ME CRISIS HAS SIGNIFICANTLY IRRITATED SOVS. USSR SEES GREAT DANGER IN ONE-MAN DIPLOMACY AND IN BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, AS LTTER WOULD OBVIOUSLY FOCUS ON SINAI, WITH DANGER THAT SYRIANS AND PLO, FEELING INCREASINGLY ISOLATED, MAY ACT IN "NEGATIVE WAY." KOPYTIN EMPHASIZED THAT SOVS WANT TO BE MORE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH PEACE INITIATIVE AND VIEW GENEVA AS BEST VEHICLE FOR USSR PARTICIPATION. WHILE RECOGNIZING PUBLIC FORUM IS "NOTORIOUSLY UNPRODUCTIVE, "SOVS BELIEVE "REAL NEGOTIATING" WOULD TAKE PLACE IN CLOSED "COMMITTEES". HE STATED THAT ATTENDANCE OF PLO WOULD BE MATTER FOR PARTIES AT GENEVA TO DISCUSS AFTER CONFERENCE IS RECONVENED.

4. AS THIRD REASON, KOPYTIN NOTED THAT TIMING OF VISITS BY SHAH OF IRAN TO EGYPT AND KING FEISAL TO SYRIA WAS VERY DIS- PLEASING TO USSR. (SHAH'S VISIT WAS "LESS BOTHERSOME AS USSR TRYING TO FOSTER BETTER RELATIONS WITH IRAN.") KOPYTIN ADDED THAT TIME NEWSTOUR'S VISIT TO SYRIA DID NOT REALLY BOTHER SOVS, AS MOSCOW RECEIVES SEVERAL US "CAPITALISTS" EVERY DAY.

5. KOPYTIN REPEATEDLY DENIED THAT DISAGREEMENT RE RETURN OF SOV EXPERTS TO EGYPT WAS ISSUE IN POSTPONEMENT OF BREZHNEV'S VISIT, AND HE ASKED RHETORICALLY, "WHAT DO EXPERTS GET YOU, ANYWAY?" NOR DID HE GIVE CREDENCE TO REPORTS THAT RUSSIAN DOMESTIC PRESSURES CONTRIBUTED TO POSTPONEMENT, CITING ONE- MAN SHOW BREZHNEV CONDUCTED (OR WAS ALLOWED TO CONDUCT) AT VALADIVOSTOK. IN CONCLUSION, KOPYTIN EMPHASIZED BREZHNEV'S POSTPONEMENT DID NOT RPT NOT SIGNIFY DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS WITH EGYPT, NOTING THAT CAIRO AND MOSCOW STATEMENTS ANNOUNCING POSTPONEMENT HAS BEEN "MUCH TOO CORDIAL TO ALLOW SUPPOSITION THAT RELATIONS HAD COOLED." GODLEY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARTY LEADERS, VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BEIRUT00235  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750006-0707  
**From:** BEIRUT  
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**Line Count:** 96  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 BEIRUT 0061  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POSTPONEMENT OF BREZHNEV'S MIDDLE EAST VISIT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, EG, SY, UR, (BREZHNEV, LEONID I)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006